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U.K. COURT RULES NIRAV MODI CAN BE EXTRADITED TO INDIA

The fugitive diamantaire will now have to face trial in India in the ₹14,000-crore Punjab National Bank scam case

BRITISH HOME SECRETARY TO SIGN THE ORDER

District Judge at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Sam Goozee, will send his findings to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Priti Patel, who is authorised to order an extradition under the India-UK Extradition Treaty. She has two months to make that decision. The Home Secretary's order rarely goes against the court's conclusions | P9

14-DAY WINDOW TO CHALLENGE DECISION

- Nirav Modi has 14 days to approach the High Court and seek leave to appeal after the Home Secretary has made her decision known
- Any appeal, if granted, will be heard at the Administrative Division of the High Court in London
- Nirav Modi is currently lodged at Wandsworth Prison

Barrack #12

IF EXTRADITED, HE WILL BE LODGED IN MUMBAI'S ARTHUR ROAD PRISON

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OVER THE TOP

- Social media platforms must remove content depicting nudity, sexual acts or morphed images of women within 24 hours of receipt of complaints
- A grievance officer should be appointed to deal with complaints
- If a social media platform removes any content on its own, it must explain the reason to the user, who will have the opportunity to contest it
- Social media intermediaries to publish a monthly compliance report on complaints received, action taken, and content removed proactively
- Code of Ethics for OTT platforms, online news and digital media entities
- OTT platforms to self-classify content into five age-based categories - U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult)
- OTT platforms must deploy age verification mechanisms for A-rated content and implement parental locks for U/A 13+ or higher

Govt tightens grip on social media content

New rules call for stricter monitoring, tools to trace sender of objectionable messages

RITWIKA MITRA @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Thursday announced sweeping regulations for social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, online streaming or over-the-top (OTT) services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, and messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram to protect users' interest and curb fake news and other harmful content.

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter will have to deploy automated tools to remove objectionable content. In the case of a government or court order, they must take down the flagged content within 36 hours.

The new rules will require messaging to enable 'traceability' so that the sender of harmful messages can be identified. Experts fear this could result in compromising end-to-end encryption.

Also, if a social media platform decides on its own to remove a user's content, it must inform the user in advance and explain the reasons.

Digital news media publishers should follow Press Council of India's norms of journalistic conduct and adhere to the programme code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act. This, according to Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, will provide a level-playing field to all media platforms.

The new laws, called Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, came into effect from Thursday. However, social media platforms will be given an additional window of three months to come under the purview of the new regime.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Guns silent on LoC, both sides to enforce truce

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

GUNS fell silent on the Line of Control and the International Border India shares with Pakistan on Wednesday-Thursday midnight in a surprising de-escalation of tensions after both sides agreed to strictly observe all bilateral ceasefire agreements and protocols.

The truce came about two weeks after China announced disengagement of troops in the Pangong lake in Ladakh from stand-off positions and both sides pulled back their troops. In the space of a fortnight, both the volatile China and Pakistan frontiers have become tranquil, indicating hectic back channel diplomacy, giving peace a booster shot in the often troubled neighbourhood.

"Both sides agreed for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control and all other sectors with effect from midnight 24/25 February 2021," both countries stated in a joint statement.

Indian Army officials attributed the truce to the realisation on both sides of collateral damage as innocent civilian lives were needlessly lost in the cross-border firing. "One of the aims is to safeguard the lives of innocent civilians as we are bound to retaliate to ceasefire violations," said a senior Army officer.

The Union Home Ministry has built community bunkers in the villages along the LoC to safeguard the lives of civilians caught in the border crossfire. As many as 70 civilians on the Indian side of the LoC were killed in the cross-border firing between 2018 and 2020 while 341 others were were injured during the same period.

However, there won't be any let-up in the deployment of forces. The decision to enforce truce was taken by the Directors General of Military Operations on both sides, who agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns, which have the propensity to disturb peace.

"India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. We have always maintained that we are committed to addressing issues, if any, in a peaceful bilateral manner. On key issues, our position remains unchanged," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

(Inputs from Pushkar Banakar)

NO LET UP IN TAKING ON TERRORISTS

The truce will not stop the Army's fight against infiltrating terrorists. "The operational posture won't change and we will follow the policy of zero tolerance to any action from the other side," an officer said

Biggest cricket stadium, shortest game

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Ahmedabad

THE grandeur of the Narendra Modi Stadium will dwarf most things. For the last two days, focus has only been on the state-of-the-art facilities. In less than two days the focus has shifted to the heart of the ground — the pitch. A strip with spin and unpredictability produced a match that ended in less than two days giving it the moniker — the shortest Test in post-War era.

The wicket around the batsmen looked like a patch of dust where any spinner who could land the ball would get a wicket. No wonder Joe Root got five wickets giving away just eight runs. And the England captain summed it up perfectly after the match, which India won by 10 wickets. "It is a real shame. It is a fantastic stadium and 60,000 people came to watch and I feel for them. They came here to see a James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Virat Kohli and instead they saw me taking wickets." This was far from an ideal Test wicket. Seventeen wickets fell on Thursday. It was a turner from the first day and was turning blind on second.

And with modern-day batsmen, especially the English, lacking skill to bat on turning wickets, the script is foretold. After the first Test in Chennai, there was talk about India utilising its home advantage. But that they have opted for these kind of surfaces, especially after outplaying Australia there, was a surprise. Barring the 2015 series against South Africa, India have resorted to this kind of surface only once at home — against Australia in Pune 2017.

The World Test Championships has been designed to bring new fans and to provide context to bilateral series and also let spectators and players rejoice at the romance of the competition between bat and ball. Ironically, this Test failed to do just that. In this, it can be argued that it was loaded too much in favour of the ball. Tests are not meant to get over in two days.

P13

TS link to two blasts in K'taka

ENS @ Bengaluru

HOME Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday revealed that the explosives that went off near a quarry in Chikkaballapur district a few days ago, and in Shivamogga district last month, originated from the same supplier in Telangana. It is suspected that the explosive materials were defective since in both cases, they exploded while being transported, claiming 14 lives.

FULL REPORT: P4

EXPRESS READ

'70% informal workers lost jobs in lockdown'

BENGALURU: A study by Azim Premji University found that seven out of 10 informal workers in Bengaluru lost jobs during lockdown, with women and people of lower castes being disproportionately affected. While 70% of these workers lost jobs, this figure hides the fact that some groups were hit more than others. P3

WITH THIS ISSUE

34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

₹3-CRORE SPEND

Some K'taka ministers eye swanky new rides

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE State Government, which is already doing a tightrope walk on finances, is looking to buy at least 10 to 12 new high-end cars for some ministers as well as Parliament members from Karnataka. For this, the government will be spending close to ₹3 crore and the Department of Personnel and Administrative Services (DPAR) has already issued an order capping the price limit at ₹23 lakh per car.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office pointed out that most of the ministers and MPs prefer the high-end model of the Toyota Innova Crysta MUV, which was priced at ₹21.7 lakh (excluding road tax). All State Government vehicles are exempt from paying road tax. In December last year, a facelift model of the Innova Crysta was launched, costing close to ₹23 lakh.

"Hence, the DPAR officials wrote to the Finance Department to raise the limit, and it was approved," the sources said.

The Government Order states that the expenditure limit per car was ₹21 lakh which was increased to ₹22 lakh in February 2020. It has now been further increased by ₹1 lakh.

CONTINUED ON: P4

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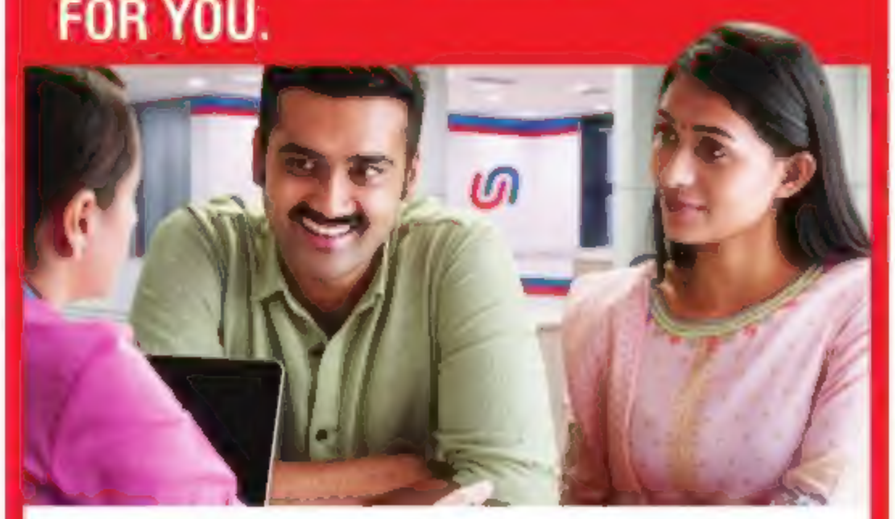

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601-800 in Engineering & Technology
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401+ THE Asia University Ranking

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9th Best Private Indian Institution
49th Best Indian Institution
351–400 in QS Asia University Ranking 2021

HEALTH
Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, SOA
5 departments ranked 1st in Odisha
3 departments are amongst top 2 in Odisha
5 departments are amongst top 8 in eastern region, India.
Institute of Dental Sciences
Ranked 1st in eastern region, India.

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